[Translation]

Modernisation of Railway Stations in Gujarat

2907. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations modernised in Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise railway stations in Gujarat in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up any new railway station in the State;

(e) if so, the district-wise and place-wise details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Modernisation of railway stations is undertaken on need based programme so warranted by growth in passenger traffic depending upon the availability of funds. During 1995-96 and 1996-97 allocation of Rs. 9.30 crore and Rs. 13.90 crore respectively were made for undertaking such works to Western Railway which includes the state of Gujarat. However, no state-wise details are maintained by the Railways. Modernisation works are included in the Railway's Annual Works Programmes depending on the overall availability of funds.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Adequate number of stations are already available.

[English]

Salaries and Foreign Allowances of Cabin Crew

2908. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the salaries and foreign allowances of Cabin Crew of Air India, were last revised;

(b) whether subsequently salaries and foreign allowances of all other categories of Air India employees have been revised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the salaries and foreign allowances of Cabin Crew and other employees of Air India are proposed to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The salaries of Cabin Crew were last revised in 1990 for the period 1985-90.

(b) to (d) The Management of Air India have signed wage agreements with Air India Employees' Guild and Air India Aircraft Engineers' Association and also issued instructions for revision of pay scales and allowances in respect of Air India Officers' Association and Air India Engineers' Association. Negotiations with the remaining Unions/ Associations/ Guild are still continuing. No settlement has been arrived at so far.

[Translation]

Location of Headquarters of Newly created Railway Zones

2909. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any expert/technical committee was constituted to take the decision regarding the location of Headquarters for the newly created railway Zones in Karnataka and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the committee;

(c) whether the South-West Railway Zone at Bangalore has been inaugurated without issuing any Government Notification; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The matter of setting up of new Zones (including those in Karnataka at Bangalore and in Bihar at Hajipur) was examined in the Ministry of Railways following recommendations for reorganisation made by the Railway Reforms Committee in 1984 and by an Advisors Committee of Railway Board in 1994.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The inaugural function of the South-Western Zonal office at Bangalore was held after the approval for its setting up was received from the Cabinet.

[English]

Improvement of Railway Network in North Karnataka

2910. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demands of the people of North Karnataka for the improvement of the railway network in this region;